

REMARKS:

REMARKS REGARDING THE DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Fig. 1 has been amended as required removing the double utilization of the reference numeral 22, adding the reference numeral 24 and schematically illustrating the measuring apparatus and/or display unit 23.

REMARKS REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended at [0020] to remove the reference numeral 20 not depicted in the drawings. Paragraph [0029] has been amended to provide the reference numeral 23 to the measuring apparatus and/or display unit for citation in the drawings. The description of paragraph [0029] has been further amended to clarify that "tempered" medium is temperature adjusted medium. Together, these changes obviate the objections to the specification and claims.

REMARKS REGARDING THE NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 17-31 reflect limitations included in original claims 1-15, together with further prior-art-differentiating recitations. The language has been revised in order to improve the form and format of the claims, placing them in better form for allowance. New claims 32-34 have been added and alternatively recite the invention in its structural form; namely, as a breast compression device. Method claim 35 has been added which generally parallels the subject matter of original claim 16, but with similar differentiating language as addressed above and which is discussed in greater detail immediately below.

Each of the independent claims 17, 32 and 35 recite limitations regarding the inclined orientation of the breast compression surface of the container when in an actuated or compressive configuration. This feature has been disclosed in at least Fig. 3 (see below) where the increased comfort factor to the person being examined is aptly demonstrated, particularly when viewed in comparison to known configurations having two opposed, substantially parallel compression plates (see below, Fig. 2 of Galkin '590):

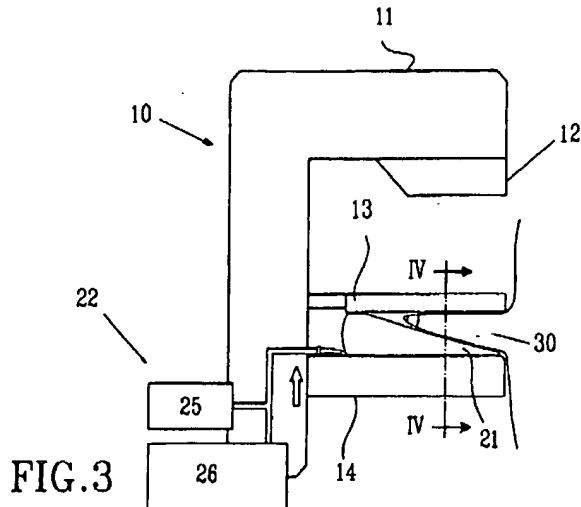


FIG. 3

FIG. 3 OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

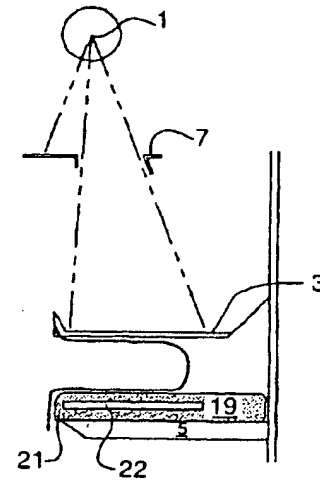


FIG. 2

FIG. 2 OF GALKIN '590

In view of the discussion above, it is respectfully asserted that the claims, as presently written, define Applicant's invention over the prior art and are therefore patentable.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 6730.065.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Druce

Tracy Druce
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 35,493
Tel. 202.659.0100